

Please add the following Abstract as a separate page after the claims.

Abstract

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The invention relates to a sealing mat comprising a carrier sheet provided with a multiplicity of sealing elements for sealing test tubes. The carrier sheet, on the one hand, and the sealing elements, on the other hand, are made from different materials. The sealing elements can be made from a flexible and/or resilient material. The carrier sheet can be made from a material that is relatively stiff compared with the material of the sealing elements. The sealing elements can be detachably fixed to the carrier sheet. The sealing elements can be fixed to the carrier sheet such that they detach therefrom when the carrier sheet is pulled away while folding it over towards the rear, after sealing one or more test tubes.